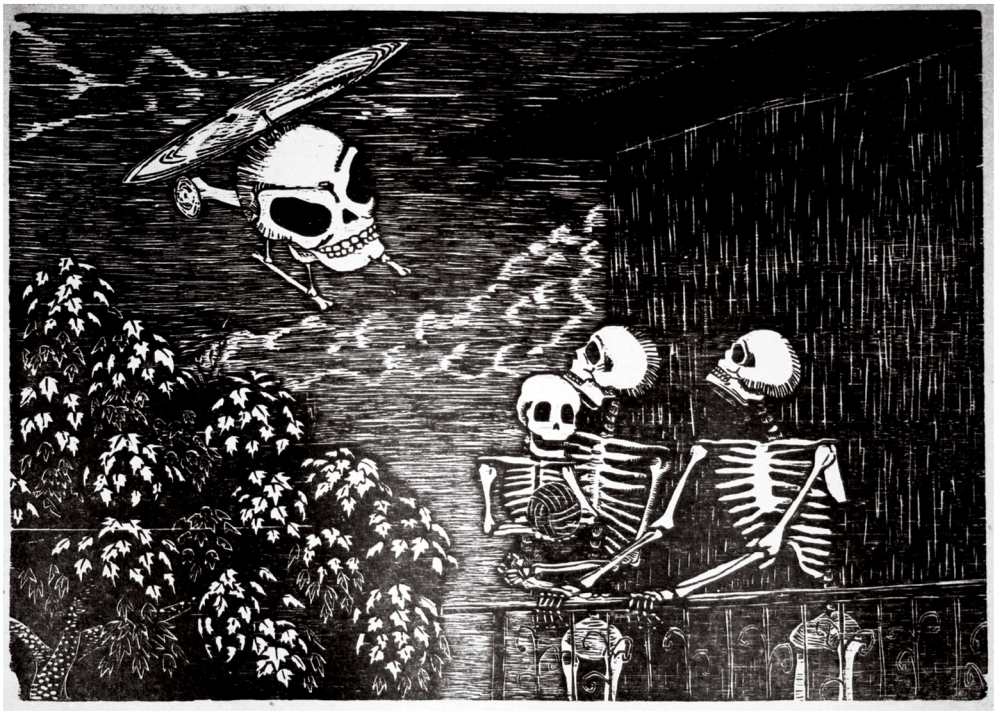
MUTINY

A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS
ISSUE #33 DECEMBER 2008



Gentrification in the Neighbourhood:
the Redfern 'Redevelopment'

Coercive, Racist, Wayward, Malevolent & Abhorred:
Fighting alongside NT Aboriginal communities against the
Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005

How the State Killed Mr Al Kurd

FREE!

The cover picture is a print from the Revolutionary Artists Collective, Oaxaca, Mexico, used with much thanks. People's Rebellion in Oaxaca, an exhibition of more of their works, is up until December 21 at Little Fish Gallery, 22 Enmore Rd (just near Newtown station). Little Fish is open Thursday & Friday 11-7, Saturday & Sunday 11-5.

Mutiny is an anarchist collective based in Sydney. We started this zine to explore different avenues of disobedience & resistance, & to encourage people to write about their ideas, actions & experiences.

Mutiny began as an anti-war collective. We're currently exploring ways to resist gentrifi cation, in particular the 'redevelopment' proposed in the Redfern area by the Redfern Waterloo Authority. We're keen to work with other people opposed to this redevelopment & the displacement, racism, rent hikes & ugliness it involves. We meet regularly: please contact us on the address below.

Editors: T with Alice, Sourdough, Graff Cat, Princess Mob, Max Solidarity, Mambutu, Marshall Cinque, Syzygy, Dumpstered Twin

(The Mutiny Zine Collective does not necessarily agree with all the opinions of contributors. Contributors do not necessarily agree with the opinions of Mutiny or the Mutiny Zine Collective. The Mutiny collective doesn't agree with all the opinions of the Mutiny collective.

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Brief news

BREAKING NEWS: see back cover for news from Greece

Melbourne - housing

SHAC (Student Housing Action Collective), a non-hierarchical collective who have been occupying a set of formerly disused terraces belonging to Melbourne University to provide student run cooperative housing for homeless students, have been served several eviction notices in the past weeks. However after a successful rally and continued community support and solidarity, the university now wants to negotiate and will not forcibly evict the students as threatened.

As part of the strong support from the broader community, Brian Boyd from the Victorian Trades Hall Council has written a letter to Glyn Davis (Melbourne Uni Vice Chancellor) threatening industrial action on University construction works if SHAC is evicted!

For updates, see http://shacmelbourne.blogspot.com/

Australia - charges dropped against unionist

Melbourne unionist Noel Washington had his charges dropped on 26th November. Noel had been facing the possibility of 6 months jail or a fine for refusing to give evidence to the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC)

The ABCC was set up to smash union power in the building industry. Under the Building and Construction Improvement Act (BCIA) the ABCC has the power to require anyone to attend a compulsory interview. There is no right to silence and refusal to attend carries a six-month jail term. Rudd has been supportive of ABCC despite calls to dissolve it.

Rallies that had been planned to start with the trial went ahead, demanding that the government abolish the ABCC. The Sydney rally was relatively small - there were small delegations of officials from many unions, but no big rank and file presence. The rally in Melbourne, on the other hand had a large attendance with CFMEU members in particular out in force.

France - anarchists face terrorism charges

French police arrested 9 anarchists (now known as the Tarnac 9) in anti-terror raids in early November following a series of sabotage acts against the SNCF state rail network, in which no one was hurt.

Police found “documents containing detailed information on railway transportation, including exact arrival and departure times of trains.” In plain words: an SNCF train schedule! They also confiscated “climbing gear” i.e. a ladder! Police believe there is a connection between the arrested and the German “hard left” who have been protesting trains carrying nuclear waste.

As of December 4th, members from the self-titled ‘invisible cell’ Julian Coupat, Yldun L and Gabrielle H remain in custody facing terrorism charges and a possible 20 years jail time.

Sweden - fascist attacks

In Sweden there have been two recent facsist attacks against an autonomous social centre in Stockholm and a murder attempt agaist a young couple and their child.

The Cyclops social centre was firebombed on November 30th, and 2 days later, Nazis poured gasoline through the mail slot of the couple's apartment and set it on fire.

The couple, who are active in the 'Central Organisation of the Workers of Sweden', a sydicalist union, had been exposed on the Nazi webpage info-14 six months ago. The three escaped unharmed over the balcony of their 3rd floor apartment, but lost everything in the fire.

Spain - bank occupation

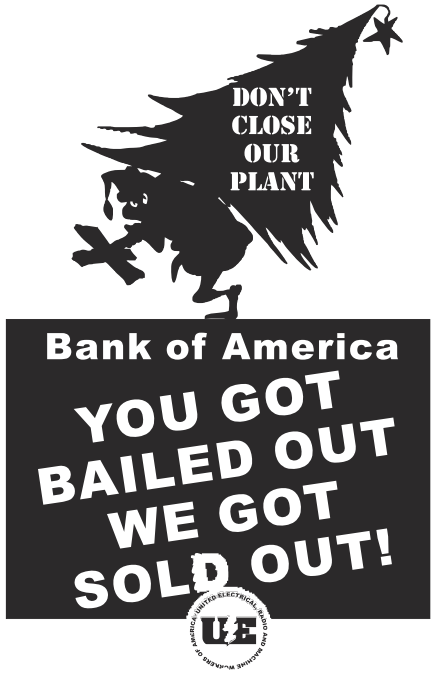
In Granada, several hundred workers occupied the offices of Osuna - a major Spanish estate agent, developer and BBVA bank. They also blockaded city centre roads, including a major city crossroad. Many of the protestors were associated with the Sindicat Andaluz de Trabajadores (Andalusian Worker's Union) - a new union formed in 2007 due to dissatisfaction with the representation offered by larger trade unions.

They are demonstrating against the assistance provided by the Spanish government to banks, developers and estate agents. Leftist Juan Manuel Sánchez Gordillo described this process as being "the politics of the economic bandits, the robbing of the poor to give the proceeds to the rich". This is coupled with discontent at high unemployment following the end of the construction boom. Many face difficulties in finding secure accommodation despite an enormous investment by the state in building homes and despite many new ones sitting empty.

USA - factory occupation

Workers who got three days notice that their window factory in Chicago, which employed 250 people, was shutting down refused to leave the plant on December 5, its last scheduled day of operation. They have occupied the building and say they won't go home without assurances they'll get severance and vacation pay.

The workers also blame Bank of America for cutting off the company's credit line and not allowing payments. The bank has received already received $15 billion from the US government bailout, and is expected to receive $10 billion more.



Ecuador - protests against mining

In Ecuador on the 17th of November, thousands of Indigenous Campesinos, Afro-descendents and environmentalists took to the streets in five different parts of the country to protest a pending mining law and the government's failure to fully apply a mining mandate passed by the National Constituent Assembly in April.

Communities involved in the protests have been directly affected by various mining concessions in the hands of the mainly Canadian mining corporations. They are calling on President Correa to pass a food sovereignty law, a water law and a biodiversity law.

Australia - direct action at power stations

In the last month, there have been five direct actions on coal-fired power-stations across Australia. These were at the Bayswater power station in the Hunter Valley, Hazelwood in the La Trobe Valley, Victoria, Collie in Western Australia, Tarong power station in Queensland and Munmorah in the NSW Central Coast.

The groups involved temporarily shut down production at all of the sites. There were 41 arrests in total.

In 06/07 Bayswater station created around 14 million tonnes of carbon dioxide pollution. The protestors demanded a phasing out of this unsustainable industry. At the Hazelwood station, which is privately owned, protestors argued that "With direct action against coal infrastructure we wish to break the illusion of corporate control of our environments, creating space for community solutions for change."

China - sit-in, riots

There have been increasing protests by workers in China, which has been hit hard by the economic crisis.

December 9 - Nearly 1,000 workers staged a rare sit-in protest outside a Shanghai computer and telecoms equipment factory because managers at the had failed to fully pay at least six months' worth of overtime, bonuses and benefits.

November 26 - Laid-off migrant workers demanding unpaid wages at a toy factory in Guangdong, southern China, quickly tapped into a network of friends and unemployed laborers who battled security guards, flipped over a police car, smashed police motorcycles, stormed into the plant and rampaged through offices, destroying at least 10 office computers.

November 17 - thousands of people rioted in in Wudu, in Gansu province's poverty-stricken region of Longnan, where 1.8 million people were made homeless by the May 12 Sichuan earthquake, over the government's redevelopment plan, torching cars and attacking a local Communist Party office, injuring police and officials.

The state-run press has reported on numerous pickets and demonstrations that have broken out across China in recent weeks, including a two-day strike by disgruntled taxi drivers in the city of Chongqing, about 300 miles south of Longnan.

GENTRIFICATION IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD: THE REDFERN 'REDEVELOPMENT'

With rents on the rise, trendy cafes and art gallery strips popping up alongside high rise apartments and office blocks, it would seem that things are changing fast around our neighbourhood. Public housing is being overhauled, services are closing and heritage sites are being knocked down. Some of this has been going on for a long time, but it seems that in recent times it's going faster than ever. All of this doesn't just happen on its own. We think that it is skillfully designed by governments and developers whose top priority is profit making.

It can seem like rising rents are just a force of nature – it happens everywhere, eventually all renters just have to move somewhere further out of the city, to somewhere cheaper, right? But the pressure on us to pay more than we can afford - or move away - doesn't come from nowhere. Rents rise because landlords want to make money. This isn't inevitable: there's no good reason why our need for somewhere to live should depend on someone else being able to profit. And the changes happening in Redfern/Waterloo are driven by state government policy – they'll sell off public housing and public assets because they want to turn Redfern into a new CBD. It is greedy landlords and state government policy that force rents way beyond what poor and working class communities can afford. It is these same two groups who decide when and how to 'develop' a community – without even trying to engage with the actual community.

In late 2004, the NSW government formed the Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA). With enormous power to do whatever the hell they want, the RWA makes it clear that there is a time frame and a big fat budget for the significant and irreversible changes we're talking about.

The RWA justifies its existence by saying its actions are all part of an exciting, grand plan that will 'revitalise' Redfern-Waterloo. But unfortunately what the RWA means by 'revitalisation' is out of line with the common good. Practically, revitalisation entails the replacement of our communities from the area, with more 'respectable' affluent residents who can afford higher rents.

For one, they claim that they have to sell huge amounts of publicly owned land, housing & infrastructure to pay for the redevelopment that Redfern station needs. That's like saying that you have to sell Sydney Hospital to upgrade Town Hall station. They refuse to pay for normal upgrades of public resources. Instead they say an underprivileged area should pay for its own basic needs.

How the RWA came into being says a lot about its true colours. Documents leaked in 2004 showed that the government was talking about making Redfern a new North Sydney: a transport hub surrounded by office towers and expensive apartments.

"Maximising market value the main game" read the headline of the Sydney Morning Herald in late 2004. The development value of all of Redfern-Waterloo is at least $5 billion-and the state government owns almost a third of the land. The original papers

pretty much state openly that nothing should get in the way of maximising that value, and then selling it off for profit.

The RWA wants to completely change the character of Redfern-Waterloo. There is a strong Aboriginal and working class history of the area, of which many of us are proud. However, in order for the area to become a key part of the CBD and a haven for commerce and business, common understandings of Redfern need to change - it needs to be made more attractive to rich people.

One way this is being done is by governments and businesses marketing the area as a 'newly discovered' place for arts & culture-as if there was no life and culture here before a few swish venues were brought in.

Art galleries, performance spaces and cafes can be fantastic, but only when they are accessible to all of us. But is it such a good thing if they aren't? When the chip shop gets shut down and replaced by the white table cloth place with $30 meals, clearly not everyone will be able to enjoy eating out. The thing is that because business owners make more money off rich people, the influence of their big dollars tends to be overwhelming and doesn't leave much space for those without. The "discovery" of our neighbourhood's hot night spots by trendy magazines and the "what's on" pages of local newspapers would almost make you think that there was nothing here before. We know that's not the case. Redfern is full of home-grown community initiatives and inspiring stories.

Sometimes there are other signs of change. For example when home owners on Edward St, Darlington tried to shut down a long-running community centre called The Settlement. Getting rid of the people who used the community centre would have driven up the price of their property on the street. More and more housing stresses and crises are affecting our daily lives.

The RWA's plans for housing are also definitely in huge contrast to the needs of all. In their development plan for Redfern-Waterloo they do talk about making a small portion of homes 'affordable housing'. But what they mean by affordable housing is plans that could be afforded by people on moderate incomes and could be reserved for people who work in 'essential professions'; such as teachers, nurses and cops.

But if you look at 2006 census statistics between 39% and 51% of households in Darlington, Redfern & Waterloo are on 'very low' or 'low' incomes, and only 14% to 18% make 'moderate' incomes. The RWA's talk about a small percentage of houses that may be accessible to a few clearly does nothing to help the large number of locals on even lower incomes.

It means that most housing not set aside as 'affordable' will be priced too high for nearly everyone. If more expensive new developments go ahead they will, by design, put upward pressure on existing rents in the area: that's what 'revitalising' the suburb means to the RWA. It also ignores the political pressure being put on public housing, which will only increase if the average income of our neighbourhood goes up.

People on the lowest incomes should not be set against people in 'essential industries' making only slightly more; people working some low-income jobs shouldn't be pitted

against others. We need to demand housing that will genuinely serve people who are otherwise being systematically priced out and pushed out of our city. In other words, housing for working class and Aboriginal communities, who aren't part of a rich or professional elite.

The changes that are happening on our doorstep has a name. It's called 'gentrification', which generally means that most of us, sooner or later will be pushed out of our homes. The way we live our lives here in Redfern-Waterloo will be changed and if we can't meet the criteria or pay the money to remain here… tough luck. This process of gentrification is one of class transformation – poor and working class people are being kicked out and will continue to be kicked out, in order to make way for those with more wealth.

Usually the process of pushing 'unwanted' people out of an area comes with hype about crime and drugs, talk about 'cleaning up' the place by installing more security. This comes in the form of constant police patrols, surveillance cameras and gated communities… Sound familiar?

Gentrification of our neighbourhood has a direct effect on Aboriginal people. In March 2005, Ken Morrison, executive director of the Property Council of Australia said openly that "there is no way that Redfern is going to be that commercial mini-centre with Aboriginal housing and the Block still in place. We need to sort that out before any private investors will be interested." There are clearly powerful people who are committed to driving Aboriginals off their land.

Are the changes that are going on in our neighbourhood unstoppable? Is gentrification inevitable? We don't think so. Just because people have more money than others doesn't mean that they should have more power than those who have less. There are other ways that society can be organised. Poor and working class communities- our community- have a right to make decisions about changes and developments that directly affect us.

When we started thinking about all of these things happening around us, we realised that it's not just happening to us: it's a common story told by thousands of cities all over the world. And then we realised that people living in places where this is happening don't just sit quietly and put up with it.
Gentrification is not inevitable because it is possible for us to organise and voice our demands. We can demand affordable housing, accessible art and community spaces, & neighbourhood control over decisions affecting our lives and over the development of the area. We, the people who live, work and play in Redfern-Waterloo, should be able to decide for ourselves what developments occur, and how and where, and we should also be able to refuse evictions and the demolition of existing buildings if it is not in our interest.

Achieving neighbourhood control sounds like a difficult and possibly strange idea, but through a process of meeting and talking together we could start working on ways to make this happen. We can decide if and how we want development to occur: we can fight for what we value and create what we need. We don't have to let our neighbourhood become a playground for the rich-we talk back and take it back for those who live here and for those who want to come and enjoy it for what it is.

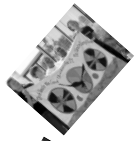
The Mutiny Collective

I write with Respect to all Sovereign Aboriginal lands of this vast continent.
Respect to all traditional owners, present and past, the history and misery that lasts.
This article was written on Wangal country, Eora Nation.
Sovereignty never ceded, spirit never defeated.

by RRIPIPI-GALI KALI

Coercive, Racist, Wayward, Malevolent & Abhorred

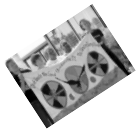
Fighting alongside NT Aboriginal communities against the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005



Lucas Heights in Sydney is Australia's nuclear reactor site and we don't want their poison to be brought to our country. The Government does not respect our way of life, and they have not talked to us. The Government have their law but we have ours, which the elders uphold. As Arrernte people it is our responsibility to protect the land for future generations of our people and all people in the community; to protect the environment of the plants, animals, birds and landscape.

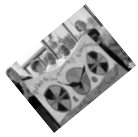
Benedict Stevens, Arrernte Man, Athenge Lhere Traditional Owner, 16 Mile Community

For over a decade the Federal Government has had an explicit political agenda to install a centralised national radioactive waste storage facility in remote regional Australia. The proposed facility would house a variety of waste material including long-lived intermediate level radioactive waste from the spent fuel rods of Sydney's nuclear reactor Lucas Heights, Australian Nuclear Science Technology Organisation (ANSTO). Whilst referred to as intermediate waste, ANSTO's spent fuel actually meets both the radiological and heat criteria for classification as high-level waste. Nuclear waste of this nature can remain at its full radioactivity for up to 500,000 years. Such waste will outlive our civilisation.



Whilst the proposed waste dump is positioned as an interim storage facility until a deep geological disposal site is found, there are widespread concerns that political considerations will take precedence over scientific scrutiny and that storage will become disposal. **After 60 years of the nuclear industry, there is still no disposal site in the world for long-lived high-level radioactive products.** The science and technology for safe management of such waste is highly questionable, especially in Australia where the domestic nuclear industry has little experience or expertise.

However, Australia is a key player in the global nuclear industry and the government plans to increase its involvement in the global nuclear fuel cycle. One of only three uranium exporters in the world and in possession of 38% of the worlds identified uranium deposits, Australia is in a position of great influence over the global nuclear industry. Instead of taking the responsible stance and rejecting nuclear energy as a solution to climate change here or overseas, the Federal Government has committed to a large-scale expansion of uranium mining and export with "vision[s] of Australia being the largest exporter of uranium in the world" (Min. Energy and Resources, Ferguson). There is an expectation, however, that the nuclear waste generated overseas from Australian uranium will be returned for storage/disposal in Australia. In fact, Australia is contracted to receive nuclear waste from France by 2015. This is the context in which the Federal Government is desperately pursuing a centralised remote radioactive waste dump and has been willing to employ coercive methods to such an end.

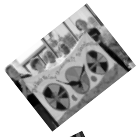


In February 1998, the Howard Government announced its initial plan to build this dump in the South Australian desert. The following March a council of senior Aboriginal women from Coober Pedy, the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta made an announcement of their own, *"We say no radioactive waste dump in our ngura – in*

our country". For six years the women travelled the continent telling their story. They called their campaign *Irati Wanti* – the poison, leave it.

On August 6th 2004 the Kungka's wrote a letter:

People said you can't win against the Government. Just a few women. We just kept talking and telling them to get their ears out of their pockets and listen. We never said we were going to give up. Government has big money to buy their way out but we never gave up. We told Howard you should look after us, not try and kill us. Straight out. We always talk straight out. ***In the end he didn't have the power, we did.*** *He only had money, but money doesn't win. Happy now.* ***Kungka's the winners because of what's in our hearts, not what's on paper****.*



Howard responded by introducing the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005 (CRWMA) and transferring attention to the Northern Territory where, due to its Territory status, the Federal Government can wield legislative supremacy.

The Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005

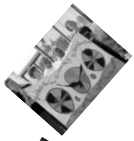
Predictably, the legislation was implemented in order to "fast-track" the site selection process and not only overrides domestic laws but violates several of Australia's international human rights commitments. It was described by Labor when in opposition as inherently "undemocratic". The CRWMA removes mandatory provisions for consultation and/or consent from Traditional Owners, affected communities and the NT Government during the process, and also explicitly removes all rights to "procedural fairness" and appeal under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act.This directly breaches Australia's human right's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

This also breaches Australia's international human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Furthermore, the CRWMA prevents the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 from having effect during investigation of potential dump sites, and excludes the Native Title Act 1993 from operating at all.

The legislation viciously undermines collective Indigenous rights as outlined in the UN Declaration on Rights for Indigenous Peoples which Howard actively opposed and Rudd has failed to sign.

"We don't want it, its not our spirit. Our spirit is our country"

Under this draconian legislation, four sites in the NT have been (and remain) nominated; Fisher's Ridge, Alcoota (Hart's Range), Athenge Lhere (Mt Everard) and Muckaty Station. The first three are Commonwealth Defence sites automatically nominated by the Federal Government whereas Muckaty Station was controversially put forward by the Northern Land Council (NLC). None of the four sites were short-listed in the Bureau of Resources Sciences study in the 1990's identifying environmentally and scientifically suitable sites for a radioactive waste depository of this kind. Furthermore each site is highly contested by Traditional Owners and communities.



If this nuclear waste is so safe, why can't they keep it at the Lucas Heights nuclear

plant in Sydney, where it is produced and where the nuclear experts work? We stand strong in our own culture as Indigenous people, and want the land and water to be protected for all children, black and white. We have enough issues of our own to deal with without having to deal with nuclear waste.

Mitch, Eastern Arrernte and Luritja Woman, Engawala Community, Hart's Range

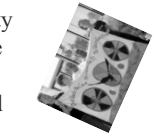
Top to bottom we got bush tucker right through our country. Whoever is taking this waste dump into our country needs to come back and talk to the Traditional Owners. We're not happy to have all this stuff. We don't want it, it's not our spirit. Our spirit is our country, our country where our ancestors been born. Before towns, before hospitals, before cities. We want our country to be safe.

Dianne Stokes, Warrumungu and Warlmanpa Woman,
Muckaty Traditional Owner, Kalumpurla community

The struggle continues

Kevin Rudd made an explicit election promise to repeal the CRWMA which would clear currently nominated sites. He has failed to do so. Minister for Energy and Resources Martin Ferguson has asserted the Government's dangerous intention to "fast-track" the process under the CRWMA. Supported by a far-reaching national grass-roots movement against the waste dump, WA Greens Senator Scott Ludlam put forward the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008 which prompted a Senate Inquiry (SI) into the matter.

The Senate Inquiry hearings held in Alice Springs on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th November 2008 were met with a rally of over 100 Traditional Owners and community members expressing their absolute opposition to the legislation and the nuclear waste dump. The overwhelming majority of submissions and presentations made to the SI expressed opposition and called for the CRWMA's immediate repeal. A second round of SI hearings were then held in Canberra the following Friday. A sit-in protest was launched by East-coast supporters who taped their mouths over and wrote 'repeal CRWMA' over their gags. The facile pro-nuclear presentations could not deny that there is absolutely no scientific basis for the remote location of the waste dump and such is based solely on political interests - otherwise known as radioactive racism.

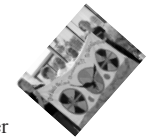


Powerful arguments have been made for the immediate and unconditional repeal of the CRWMA and the development of an Independent Public Inquiry into the range of radioactive waste management options that are available. "We must begin a process that is open, transparent, inclusive and based on community dialogue and engagement".

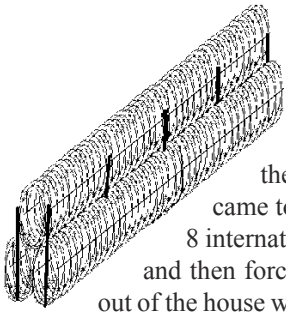
The struggle continues as Traditional Owners, communities and supporters await the outcome of the SI to be announced December 18th.

This land is not empty - people live right nearby. We hunt and collect bush tucker here and I am the custodian of a sacred site within the boundaries of the defence land. We don't want this poison here.

Steven McCormack, Athenge Lhere Traditional Owner



Support communities in their fight against radioactive genocide. STOP URANIUM MINING. NO WASTE DUMP. See www.beyondnuclearinitiative.wordpress.com or www.sydneynuclearfree.wordpress.com and get involved.



Mr al Kurd is dead. Just 55 years old - younger than both of my parents - he died in hospital last night, just two weeks after Israeli police evacuated his family from their house in East Jerusalem. His health had been poor for a long time, but he lived in his home, shuffling about in his pyjamas, sitting out in the sunny courtyard for much of the day. But when 50 Israeli police came to their home at 2am on Sunday 9th November, first arresting the 8 internationals who were staying there, ready to lock-on in such an event, and then forcing him and his wife, Fawzieh, from their beds, dragging them out of the house without letting them even take a change of clothes, rendering them - in one fell swoop - homeless, he had to be hospitalised immediately.

Fawzieh has since been living in a tent on a nearby football pitch. It's a protest tent, designed to garner media attention, and as such Israeli authorities have been bulldozing it every other day. Luckily, as it's a tent, it's easy to put back up again. A small moment of comedic relief came a few days ago, when they also bulldozed the surrounding fence, which was erected not by the Al-Kurd family, but by Jerusalem city council.

Fawzieh is a strong, strong woman. She has been a major force behind this whole campaign - a campaign not only to save her house, but to save all the other 28 houses in the Sheik Jarrah neighbourhood that face the same fate as hers. For many months now she has opened up her house to the general public, letting it become the site of a media circus. Night after night she has explained her story to countless delegations and solidarity groups. Day after day she showed journalists around the area, with grace and alacrity. She developed great media savvy, imploring cameras "Wayn al democrati, habibi? Wayn al democrati?" (Where is the democracy, darling? Where is the democracy?). All this while caring for a sick husband and cooking two meals a day for the internationals who were camped out in her courtyard for months.

Right now, even in her grief she has set up a public mourning site at her tent. despite the rawness of her loss. Despite the rawness of her loss, she will, for the next few hours, receive visits from the hundreds of people who will undoubtedly come to pay their respects.

How the State Killed Mr. Al Kurd

BY CYNICAL SMURF

Mohammad Al Kurd moved into his house in East Jerusalem with his family when he was 3 years old, in 1956. Theirs and 27 other houses were built as part of a joint project between United Nations Refugee and Welfare Association (UNRWA) and the Jordanian government, for refugees who had fled the Nakba (1948 war that created 700 000 Palestinian refugees). The families were granted ownership of the houses in exchange for giving up their food rations.

After the 1967 war, when Israel occupied East Jerusalem, two Israeli settler groups, the Oriental Jews Association and The Knesseth Yisrael Association, made a claim that they had owned the land prior to 1948, and, in 1972, got the land registered in their names with

the Israeli Land Registrar. Then in 1982, the lawyer hired to represent all of the refugee families in the Sheik Jarrah neighbourhood, Tosya Cohen, unbeknownst to the families, made an agreement with the settler associations to recognise the settlers' ownership of the land in return for status for the families as "protected residents". It's unknown why he did this, whether he was just stupid, or was paid off, or was ideologically on the wrong side to begin with. At any rate, the families fired him as soon as they found out what he had done, and denounced his agreement, but it was, in many senses, too late.

Despite the fact that in 2006 the Israeli High Court found the settler associations' ownership papers to be falsified, and compelled the removal of their names from the Lands Registrar, the Israeli Land Registration department then refused to rezone the land so as to register the land in the true owners' names. Further, the Israeli courts refused to allow any of this evidence into the separate case concerning the Al Kurds' eviction, and so on 16th July 2008 the Israeli Supreme Court issued an eviction notice for the Al Kurds, for not paying rent to the settlers associations.

In the meantime, while the family was in Jordan in 2001, getting medical treatment for Mr Al Kurd, the Jerusalem municipality gave the keys to the apartment they had built as an extension to their home to settlers - under the pretext that it had been built illegally. Ironically, the usual excuse for housing demolitions is that, being built without planning permission, they are unsafe to inhabit. The residents are being protected from themselves. In this case the annex was unsafe for the Al Kurd family, but safe for the rotation of settler families who passed through there.

As such, for the past seven years, the Al Kurd family had been living with settlers in their home - in the annex they built for their son and his family. This brought with it all sorts of abuse, even from the small children; as well as harassment from Israeli police and security guards employed by the settlers associations to patrol the property.

The settlers occupying the annex have also received an eviction notice to evacuate the property - but Israeli police have chosen not to carry-out the order. In fact, the same day the Al Kurds were evicted, instead of evicting the settlers as well, more settlers just moved in to occupy the entire house.

All of this has not been the result of a series of accidents and miscalculations. This is part a deliberate strategy to create the "facts on the ground" necessary to preclude the possibility of a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem. This collusion between settlers and the Israeli state is the basis of the well-publicised plan to "Judaise" East Jerusalem. Since 2004, more than 1200 Palestinians have been made homeless in East

Jerusalem alone through home demolitions. There are currently more than 80 Palestinian houses slated for demolition. If the remaining 27 Palestinian houses in the Sheik Jarrah neighbourhood are evicted, those buildings too will be demolished to make way for a 200 unit settler apartment complex. This will complete the ring of settler apartment buildings needed to effectively annex the old city in East Jerusalem forever. The Al Kurds are just one family victimised by a series of policies whose ultimate aim is the ethnic cleansing of East Jerusalem.

And now Mr Al Kurd is dead. A severe heart-attack. He might not have been taken out with a bullet, or a bomb, but he was killed by the Israeli injustice system all the same.

UP-COMING EVENTS

JURA BOOKS CELEBRATES IT'S 31ST BIRTHDAY

Bring a plate of food and head over to Jura Books to celebrate the birthday of this excellent space and chat with fellow comrades.

14th of December at 2pm. Jura books is 440 Parramatta Rd, Petersham.

BE FED AND HELP FEED WITH FOOD NOT BOMBS

On the 13th and 27th of December. Cooking will be at Jura Bookshop from 1pm, with serving to follow at 4.30pm at the Martin Luther King mural on King St in Newtown.

LITTLE FISH MARKETS

Sunday the 11th of January. Zine stalls and more 1pm till 5pm. In collaboration with music at Black Rose and the Jaffle Cafe in NewQ. E-mail ghostesky@gmail.com to book a table by donation.

22 Enmore Rd.

LAND OF ANARKIA

On **Wednesday the 17th of December at 7:30pm.** Anarcho-fetishist cabaret at Black Rose. Bringing revolution back to the people. Drinks! Singing! And the Jaffle Cafe at NewQ! **At 22 Enmore Rd**

REVIEWS OF STUFF

(journal)

Imminent Rebellion 9: an irregular anarchist journal from deep in the South Pacific

This journal from Aotearoa (New Zealand) is so impressive. For a start, it looks good: the design is striking, accessible and readable. And the diversity and quality of the articles (all 107 pages of them!) is amazing - even the poetry is sharp and excellent.

Obviously anarchist politics in Aotearoa has been affected by the 2007 'anti-terror' arrests of anarchists and Maori activists. There are two accounts from arrestees which reflect on the political and personal significance of their arrests and imprisonment. 'Operation 8- how the police watched us' uses information from cop documents to talk in detail about (space) surveillance: it's an article that's unfortunately relevant to all of us, and adds a lot to our knowledge of the mechanisms of intelligence gathering.

Imminent Rebellion places itself strongly in Aotearoa and the Pacific. There's an excellent article on the Tongan riots of 2006 which thoroughly untangles the different politics of those events: pro-democracy, racism and class struggle, and argues convincingly that the riot is 'part of a wider surge of class struggle in the Pacific.'

'For revolutionary struggle not activism' is a useful critique of aspects of anarchist practice (such as subcultural politics and a lack of ongoing strategy) but I think it is let down by a fairly narrow notion of 'working class struggle' and 'everyday life.'

If one or two articles are theoretical to the point of being a bit academic, they're well balanced by other pieces about the politics of everyday life, such as supporting survivors of sexual abuse.

This is a collection of a great range of smart, relevant writing, of interest to self-proclaimed anarchists and anyone else interested in contemporary politics. Articles can be read, and the entire publication can be downloaded from the website of anarchist publishing collective Rebel Press: www.rebelpress.org.nz

Copies should also be available from your local anarchist bookshop (Black Rose and Jura just got them).

Princess Mob

(gig)

Ninety Nine - Land, What Land? - Hee Haw Nov 29th @ Louie's

I've been liking Hee Haw more and more recently, but in the first couple of songs tonight, it felt like something was slightly askew. But then – I don't know if it was a particular melody amidst the noise that cracked me or a slow build-up of momentum that dragged me in – but I was hooked. It's a finely crafted chaos they play and when they do it as good as this show it's pretty exhilarating.

Land, What Land?, from the USA, write atmosphere over songs. Playing between Hee Haw and Ninety Nine they were an extremely subdued change of pace. I don't write bad reviews in Mutiny so i'll leave it there. I'm sure others enjoyed it.

I'd usually be fine calling Ninety Nine a fun band, but probably not a party band. But considering what came before they might as well have been a cross between M.I.A. and Dizzee Rascal. That and I was filled with immense anticipation at seeing one of my favourite bands again after having somehow not caught them for a few years.

Ninety Nine are awesome. They combine really dancey rhythms with guitar, vocal, keyboard and xylophone(!) melodies that weave around and within each other. And watching their drummer is worth the price of admission alone. I also love how they really live up to DIY without the righteousness and while playing a style much more interesting than hardcore.

SourDough

Breaking News

Alexandros Gligoropoulos was murdered by police last Saturday December 6 in Exarchia, a suburb of Athens known as an anarchist stronghold. His funeral was attended by 6000 mourners Tuesday the 9th December. He was 16 years old.

In the days since, thousands of people have rioted in response throughout Greece. On the night Alexandros was killed up to 10,000 people took the streets of Athens on a spontaneous demonstration, burning and smashing banks, ministries and multinational shops. Barricades are being put up around Athens and clashes with the police are constant Demonstrations of anger have spread across the country, from the northern city of Thessaloniki to the tourist destinations of Corfu and Crete.

Most high schools in Greece have been occupied by students and all universities are closed. A university general assembly from Patras passed a vote for the "violent overthrow of the government". A general strike, which had already been planned for Wednesday in protest against pension restrictions and neoliberal economic policies, will go ahead..

Solidarity actions have already been held around Greece, in London, Edinburgh, Berlin, and Vienna.

The conservative government, which was already struggling to stay in power in the wake of a recent land-exchange scandal, attempted to calm the rioters by arresting the two police officers connected with the shooting. The Exarchia precinct police chief has been suspended.

inside this issue

usual brief news & upcoming events

NUCLEAR WASTE NO WAY!
Ripipi details the senate inquiry into the commonwealth radioactive waste management act with some words from the struggles of Traditional Owners who are directly affected

WAYN AL DEMOCRATI, HABIBI?
the forced eviction of the Al Kurd family in East Jerusalem as reported by Cynical Smurf

and take a stroll through Redfern with the Mutiny Collective

plus Princess Mob reviews Imminent Rebellion and Sour Dough reviews a gig of 99 · Hee Haw & Land, What Land?